



Course program and reading list

Semester 1 Year 2024

School: Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy B.A

Critical thinking and research skills

Lecturer:

Dr. Alisa Rubin Peled peleda@runi.ac.il

Teaching Assistant:

Ms. Sapir Frieman sapir.frieman@runi.ac.il

Course No.:	Course Type :	Weekly Hours :	Credit:
4870	Lecture	1	1

Course Requirements :	Group Code :	Language:
Final Paper	241487000	English



Course Description

(This is a required course for the Argov Fellows in Leadership and Diplomacy Program). This course aims to give students high level critical thinking, research and writing skills. The class will involve many in-class exercises, case studies and discussions. The course will cover a wide range of topics including: media bias, evaluating numbers and words, the influence of AI as well as practice with and tips to help develop effective research and writing skills.



Course Goals

Students will be able to think more critically about current developments and will be able to conduct effective research and write in an effective, concise, logical and persuasive

way.



Grading

Attendance is required for this course. You must inform Argov Program Manager Sapir Frieman **in advance** with a justified reason if you will be unable to attend class—and have it approved prior to the class. Complete academic integrity is expected at all times.

Composition of the Grade

Participation

A significant portion of your final grade in this course comes from active participation in class discussion and in-class exercises. (60% of final grade)

Final assignment (40% of final grade)



Lecturer Office Hours

Office: PE 311 (Psychology Building, 3rd floor)

E-mail: alisa.rubin@gmail.com (best way to contact me)

Phone: 09-9602767 (leave message)

Office hours: By appointment



Reading List

Each week, readings/assignments required for the next class meeting will be announced in class and will appear under “what’s new” on moodle. All required readings will be posted on the course website.

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Bibliography

Recommended Texts

1. *The Economist* (weekly journal of business and politics), especially surveys
2. *The New York Times*
3. *The Wall Street Journal*

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Course Topics and Readings

1. Critical Thinking

Levitin, Daniel J. *A Field Guide to Lies: Critical Thinking in the Information Age*. New York: Dutton, 2016.

Stephens-Davidowitz, Seth. *Everybody Lies: Big Data, New Data and What the Internet Can Tell Us About Who We Really Are*. New York: Harper Collins, 2017.

2. Grammar and Writing

Graff, Gerald and Birkenstein, Cathy. *They Say, I Say: The Moves That Matter in Persuasive Writing*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2007.

Zinsser, William. *On Writing Well*. New York: Harper and Row, 1985.